

leaves the Illinois Senate and wish her success in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
LIBERA PILLA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Libera Pilla—beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend to many.

For forty-nine years, Mrs. Pilla was the devoted wife of George Pilla, who died in 1978. Together they raised their two sons, Bishop Anthony Pilla and Joe Pilla. As immigrants from Italy, Mr. and Mrs. Pilla understood the importance of family, faith, and hard work. Although they were not formally educated, Mr. and Mrs. Pilla coveted the educational opportunities for their sons, and ensured that they both received an excellent education. Moreover, they instilled in their sons the value of service and compassion toward others—clearly evidenced in their sons' chosen vocations—Bishop Anthony Pilla's vocation of spiritual leader; and Joe Pilla's commitment to public service in law enforcement.

Mrs. Pilla was the light, warmth and center of the Pilla family. Mrs. Pilla was known for her deep sense of compassion and concern for others, and she consistently reached out to others with grace, kindness and dignity. Mrs. Pilla took great pride and joy in caring for her family and friends, especially through her culinary talents. She delighted many with her wonderful recipes from her Italian homeland, and enjoyed planning and preparing for family and friends during the holiday season.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Libera Pilla—a remarkable woman who, along with her dear husband George, rose above the hardships of assimilating into American culture, sculpting a wonderful life for herself and her family, filled with love, warmth, encouragement and support. Although Mrs. Pilla will be deeply missed, her life was joyously lived—and is a life worthy of celebration. I offer my deepest condolences to Mrs. Pilla's sons, Bishop Anthony Pilla and Joe Pilla; to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and to her extended family and many friends. The light and love that Mrs. Pilla so freely gave to others, especially to her family, will live on forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved her well.

HONORING GLORIA STRAIT FOR 50
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CAP-
ITOL HILL CLUB

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gloria Strait for the fifty years of service, dedication, and loyalty she has given to the Capitol Hill Club.

Gloria moved from Syracuse, New York to Capitol Hill in 1952. She began her tenure at the Capitol Hill Club on February 5, 1953,

when it was located at 214 First Street. Although she was hired as a cook, she worked as a dishwasher when business was slow. For close to twenty years, Gloria cooked breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the numerous Members of Congress and guests of the Club. During this time, the majority of which was spent in the Club's second home at 75 C Street, she also supervised the kitchen, managed menus, and handled orders. When the Club moved to its current location at 300 First Street in 1972, Gloria was promoted to Purchasing Manager and took on responsibility for handling inventory and vendor relations.

Since a child in New York, Gloria has had the opportunity to meet innumerable celebrities through her involvement in the restaurant industry. And in the fifty years of her employment at Capitol Hill Club, she has met six United States presidents, one dozen governors, countless Congressmen and women, and renown business leaders. She keeps a scrapbook to remember her many friends.

Gloria has helped countless Members of Congress who were far from home to feel at home by cooking favorite meals or baking birthday cakes. It is that type of personal attention and commitment to her job that makes Gloria a vital and welcomed part of the Capitol Hill Club family. For fifty years, Gloria has brightened the Club with her youthful vigor and soaring spirit. As a member of the Club, I thank her for being a part of our extended family and look forward to seeing her in the many years to come.

BEST WISHES TO SALT RIVER
PROJECT

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a venerable Arizona institution that celebrates this month its 100th anniversary as the nation's oldest multi-purpose reclamation project. I speak of the Salt River Project, an organization with nearly 800,000 electric customers and responsibilities for supplying water to some 1.5 million people in the Phoenix metro area.

While my own Congressional District 8 spans areas outside of SRP's service territory, one cannot live long in Arizona without learning something of the history of this unique public power and water utility. Founded on February 7, 1903, SRP marked the formalization of hopes for transforming a fierce desert into a productive agricultural area.

Eight months earlier, the Reclamation Act of 1902 had been signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt. Critics maintained the act would be a boondoggle, saddling the federal government with useless burdens. But Roosevelt and his supporters were optimists and had faith in the American spirit of determination.

The fruits of their convictions were borne out.

A federal reclamation loan was approved to help SRP and central Arizona's landowners build a great water storage system to supplement the area's small and unreliable system of ditches and canals. By 1911, using horses, hawsers and hand-tools, workers had com-

pleted Roosevelt Dam—then the largest masonry dam in the world.

With new and dependable sources of water, farms flourished. Local towns and cities grew. More dams were built. And, by the 1930s, SRP with state enabling legislation entered into the power business to ensure repayment of its federal loan obligations.

Today, SRP ranks among the largest public power providers in the nation and an authority on water management. And, at the core of the company's culture is the same durable spirit of community partnership and involvement that was there a century ago.

Mr. Speaker, I offer best wishes to the Salt River Project as it moves ahead in its second hundred years of service—a century certain to bring many new benefits and progress.

FIREFIGHTING RESEARCH AND
COORDINATION ACT

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Firefighting Research and Coordination Act. I am proud of this legislation for what it seeks to accomplish on behalf of our Nation's firefighters. This bill has three primary objectives: support the development of voluntary consensus standards for firefighting equipment and technology, establish nationwide and State mutual aid systems for dealing with national emergencies, and authorize the National Fire Academy to train firefighters to respond to acts of terrorism and other national emergencies.

In large part, the genesis of the Firefighting Research and Coordination Act came after the September 11th attacks. After the tragic events of that day, fire departments throughout America began to grapple with new concerns over how to best train for and respond to terrorist acts. The needs of the fire service continue to grow as new threats emerge. As a result, Congress has a responsibility to assist and protect our firefighters. That is the goal of the Firefighting Research and Coordination Act.

The first objective of the bill focuses on equipment and technology standards. The bill would allow the U.S. Fire Administrator, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Inter-Agency Board for Equipment Standardization and Inter-Operability, national voluntary consensus standards development organizations, interested Federal, State, and local agencies, and other interested parties to develop measurement techniques and testing methodologies, and support development of voluntary consensus standards through national standards development organizations, for evaluating the performance and compatibility of new fire fighting technology. Examples of new technologies include: personal protection equipment, devices for advance warning of extreme hazard, equipment for enhanced vision, and robotics and other remote-controlled devices, among others. Equipment purchased under the Assistance to Firefighters grant program must meet or exceed voluntary consensus standards.

Establishing standards for firefighting equipment and technologies will help safeguard the

lives of firefighters. At present, manufacturers of emergency equipment can sell their products with no government testing or certification requirements to ensure their product meets the needs of firefighters. A January 2003 Consumer Reports article, "Safeguards Lacking for Emergency Equipment," highlights the lack of standards problem. The article reports "Firefighter organizations, which also represent most of the Nation's emergency medical technicians, say they worry that no law requires fire departments to buy equipment certified for use against chemical or biological agents." In a September 10, 2002 story in *The Washington Post* Arlington County, Virginia Chief raised concerns about the lack of equipment standards, as well as the lack of guidelines for training the workers charged with responding to future terrorist attacks. Plaugher stated, "Without clear goals, we risk undermining ourselves while wasting precious resources."

The second objective of the bill addresses mutual aid systems. The Firefighting Research and Coordination Act directs the Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Director, to provide technical assistance and training to State and local fire service officials to establish nationwide and State mutual aid systems for responding to national emergencies. The Administrator, in consultation with the FEMA Director, will also develop model mutual aid plans for both intrastate and interstate assistance. An important example of why model mutual aid systems are important to establish comes in part, as a response to the September 11th attacks and to wildfires that have raged in the west.

On July 23, 2002, Titan Systems Corporation issued a report on behalf of the Arlington County, Virginia fire department. The report found that self-dispatching fire and emergency crews were favorable in some respects, but were also detrimental. For example, the report states that the Arlington County fire department "faced the monumental challenge of gaining control of the resources already onsite and those arriving minute-by-minute." The report goes on to say that, "firefighters and other personnel came and went from other Pentagon entrances with little or no control. Thus, had there been a second attack, as occurred at the World Trade Center, it would have been virtually impossible for the Incident Commander to determine quickly who might have been lost."

The third objective of the legislation permits the Superintendent of the National Fire Academy to coordinate with other Federal, State, and local officials in developing curricula for classes offered by the Academy. This section of the bill illustrates what new classes and training opportunities the Academy is authorized to offer its students. For example, the Academy will now be able to train fire personnel in: strategies for building collapse rescue, the use of technology in response to fires; including terrorist incidents and other national emergencies; response, tactics, and strategies for dealing with terrorist-caused national catastrophes; applying new technology and developing strategies and tactics for fighting forest fires, and other important response strategies.

Over one million students have received training at the National Fire Academy. Since its inception in 1975, the Academy has helped

firefighters gain vital education and training to the benefit of the American public. The Academy's courses are taught at a facility in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Its online courses and cooperation with local colleges and universities expand the reach of the Academy to thousands of firefighters across the Nation.

With the Nation recovering from acts of terrorism, mammoth wildfires, and the possibility that other national emergencies may arise in the future, America's firefighters deserve nothing less than quality educational opportunities and training to prepare for these, and other types of disasters. We saw with the World Trade Center that building collapse rescue is a critical component of a firefighters job. In a December 1, 2001 article that appeared in *Fire Chief* magazine, a member of the Michigan Urban Search and Rescue team stated that while the Federal government has spent millions of dollars to train local first responders with weapons of mass destruction, little if any focus has been placed on building collapse rescue. "For some time now, I have advocated that every State should have a structural-collapse response that includes an Urban Search and Rescue (US & R) task force system," stated the Michigan firefighter. The firefighter went on to say that, "The FEMA US&R system does little to help with the initial response to structural collapse incidents." This example offers another reason why the curricula at the National Fire Academy should be expanded to include courses on building-collapse rescue and other strategies.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation enjoys wide support among many of this Nation's fire groups and bipartisan support here in the House of Representatives. My colleague in the Senate, Senator MCCAIN will introduce companion legislation today in the United States Senate. I am hopeful that this important bill will be swiftly enacted in the 108th Congress.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN BOWLES

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Evelyn Bowles of Edwardsville who was appointed to the Illinois State Senate in May of 1994 and was elected by an overwhelming margin in November of 1994; she has served this body with distinction throughout her 8½ years as a member.

During her terms in the Senate, Senator Bowles served as the Democratic spokesperson of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, the Local Government and Elections Committee, the Licensed Activities Committee and the State Government Operations Committee.

Senator Bowles has also served on the Committees on Agriculture and Conservation, Executive, Transportation, the Legislative Information System, the Legislative Printing Unit, and the Legislative Research Unit.

Senator Bowles has amassed numerous legislative accomplishments which have enhanced the quality of life for the people of her Metro East district and all of the people of the State of Illinois, including new penalties for individuals convicted of illegally possessing the chemicals used to manufacture methamphet-

amine, the regulation of reprocessing certain single-use surgical devices, more funds for the Spinal Cord Injury Paralysis Research Fund, and the requirement of coverage for the replacement of child safety seats if those seats were in use at the time of an accident.

Senator Bowles will long be remembered for her commitment to the success of Illinois' agriculture community; in an effort to find a "third crop" to insert into our traditional corn and soybean rotation, she sponsored legislation directing the University of Illinois to study the re-introduction of industrial hemp in Illinois, a once important crop in Illinois because of its versatility.

Senator Bowles was elected to five consecutive terms as the Madison County Clerk and brought to the Senate knowledge and expertise that was often called upon when questions arose concerning local government and election laws in Illinois. It was in that office which I worked with her closely. Her countless appearances at the office counter gave constituents a real glimpse of personal service by their elected officials. In her dealings with me, a member of the opposition party, she was always professional, courteous, and determined to place the best interests of the citizens first.

Senator Bowles served her nation as a member of the United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve Intelligence Division during the Second World War and is a member of the American Legion Post #199 and The Auxiliary. She was also a former teacher.

We offer our best wishes to Senator Evelyn Bowles upon her retirement from the Senate and we offer her hope for a rewarding future.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE LAND EXCHANGES IN ARIZONA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congressman J.D. HAYWORTH and myself, I rise today to introduce legislation to facilitate two land exchanges in the Tonto and Coconino National Forests in Arizona's First Congressional District. Congressman J.D. HAYWORTH sponsored similar legislation in the 107th Congress that unanimously passed the House.

The legislation authorizes the Montezuma Castle land exchange and the Diamond Point land exchange. In the Montezuma Castle land exchange, the Forest Service will acquire a 157-acre parcel of private land adjacent to Montezuma Castle National Monument and the 108-acre Double Cabin Park parcel, both in the Coconino National Forest.

An Arizona partnership, the Montezuma Castle Land Exchange Joint Venture, will acquire approximately 122 acres of National Forest System land adjacent to the town of Payson's municipal airport. The town of Payson has entered into an agreement to purchase a portion of this land to create private sector business development and job opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, this exchange will protect riparian areas along Beaver Creek, the viewshed for the Montezuma Castle National Monument, and it will transfer Double Cabin Park to Federal ownership.